GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1498
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2002
RECALL OF INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER
VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

the circumstances leading to the recall of Indian High Commissioner from Islamabad?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

In our interactions with the Pakistani authorities, following the December 13 terrorist attack on India`s Parliament, it was abundantly clear that India`s serious concerns about all the ramifications of the attack had not been fully grasped. Pakistan also did not sufficiently appreciate the depth of concern in India, the totality of rejection by the entire cross section of our country`s opinion of Pakistan`s continued sponsorship of cross border terrorism and its promotion of terrorism as an instrument of state policy. Pakistani spokesman went so far as to suggest that the attack had been organized by India`s intelligence services in order to denigrate Pakistan.

In view of Pakistan`s negative approach, India had no option but to take a series of diplomatic steps including the recall of the Indian High Commissioner from Islamabad, which was announced on 21st December 2001.